

## In this week's Kukini



■ Air Force joins sister services in celebrating 60 years of racial integration **A3**

## News Notes

**ORE update** — The 15 AW, in conjunction with the 154th Wing, will be conducting a wing wide exercise from through Sunday. Some customer services such as the base gym may be affected. For more information, call 448-3572.

**New school bus stops** — Starting next Thursday, new school bus stops will be added on Ohana Nui Circle. The new stops will be located at the basketball court across the street from Bldg. 6377 and at the northern intersection of Ohana Nui Circle and Nehe Street. Pick-up time for Aliamanu Middle School will be 6:45 a.m. and Radford High School 7:25 a.m.. For more information, call 448-5236.

**Sick call time change** — Effective immediately, active-duty patients empanelled to the Family Practice Clinic must be present to sick call prior to 7:30 a.m. After 7:30, patients will be instructed to call 448-6000 to make an appointment. The Flight Medicine and Dental clinics will continue to hold active duty sick call at 7:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. For more information, call Capt. Justin Eder at 449-2068.

**Main Gate construction** — The Main Gate will continue to have only two lanes open for incoming traffic during construction for bollard installation. The right two left lanes as you approach inbound will be closed and barricaded off. Access to the visitor center will continue to be available and marked. Please approach the gate with caution and heed all construction signs. Outbound lane traffic will not be affected. Construction is schedule to last through the middle of August. For more information, call Master Sgt. Daniel Clark at 448-2803 or Tech. Sgt. Phillip Parker at 277-0123.

**Road closure** — A segment of Vickers Avenue between 3rd and 1st streets will be blocked on Monday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Traffic will be detoured thru Worthington Avenue. Please pay attention to all construction signs. For more information, call Randy Chee at 448-2875.

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# Hickam Airman wins Navy award

By Jeff Nicolay  
Hickam Kukini editor

As an Airman, getting a medal is something to write home about. For Tech. Sgt. Casey L. Carden, 15th Airlift Wing Plans and Programs Team Hickam RIMPAC 2008 coordinator, however, the medal he received this week was one for the books.

In recognition for his efforts as the wing's RIMPAC liaison officer, Capt. Adam S. Levitt, U.S. Third Fleet chief of staff, awarded Sergeant Carden the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal on Wednesday in the wing conference room.

"The admiral chief of staff never had to deal with logistics on Hickam — transportation, access — it was all taken care of and that doesn't happen often," said

Cmdr. Glenn Dietrick, N-4, U.S. Third Fleet Command.

In the award document, Captain Levitt was generous in his praise for Sergeant Carden.

"Sergeant Carden performed his duties in an exemplary and highly professional manner," he said. "He was solely responsible for creating and implementing international entry procedures for Hickam, affecting over 1,500 personnel across five countries."

"His managerial ability, personal initiative and unwavering devotion to duty reflected credit upon him and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."



Photo by Oscar A. Hernandez

Tech. Sgt. Casey L. Carden (left), 15th Airlift Wing Plans and Programs RIMPAC 2008 coordinator, poses with Cmdr. Glenn Dietrick, N-4, U.S. Third Fleet Command, during a Wednesday ceremony in which the sergeant was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for his efforts as wing liaison officer during the biennial, multi-national exercise.

# PACAF IHS teaches medical techniques to Laos team

By Tech. Sgt. Tom Czerwinski  
Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs

A team of International Health Specialists from Pacific Air Forces taught a first-responder medical course during a subject matter expert exchange (SMEE) in Vientiane, Laos.

From July 7 to 23, students, doctors and nurses from hospital 103 here, attended the first-ever training exchange to learn the U.S. based first responder techniques and become trainers for their country's emerging medical care network.

"The techniques we are learning here from the U.S.



U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Tracy Lewis

Master Sgt. John Strothenke, International Health Specialist from Eielson AFB, Alaska is teaching fundamentals of U.S. based emergency medical systems to Laotian Dr. Vilaphone and Nang Phoukham a nurse from local hospital 103 here July 7. This first responder course is being taught to fit the needs of their country and build capacity in Laos.

Airmen will be very useful and the equipment they have brought will be used regularly," said Vilaphone Thoudsanikone, a doctor of internal medicine at hospital 103.

"It has been a very good subject matter exchange that has allowed us to bring in a lot of needed equipment for ambulance use and teaching Laotian medical personnel the fundamentals of our U.S.-based emergency medical system," said Master Sgt. John Strothenke, International Health Specialist from Elmendorf AFB, Alaska. "The techniques they learn here during this first responder course may be tailored to fit the needs

See LAOS, A5

# Small steps save big bucks

By David Stiner  
15th Civil Engineer Squadron

Although Col. Giovanni Tuck, 15th Airlift Wing commander, has been quoted as saying he wants to "freeze the stick" and interject only where he feels the need to in the first 30 days of his command, he has already stepped up to the plate with respect to base energy conservation.

To that end, the colonel has requested a reduction in air conditioning run-times in Bldg. 1110 (Wing Headquarters), which should cut \$8,300 off Hickam's energy bill each year.

In the past, Bldg. 1110 implemented the following A/C schedule: from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. on weekdays and from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends.

Colonel Tuck has requested that the A/C run-times in Bldg. 1110 be adjusted weekdays 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. and no A/C on the weekends. This change will reduce A/C run-time by 2,028 hours per year and cut energy consumption by 38,000 kWh — reductions that should save Hickam \$8,300 each year.

Colonel Tuck said he hoped his approach will encourage other Team Hickam members to make similar adjustments to A/C for their buildings.

On the average, air conditioning accounts for approximately 38 percent of all the energy used in a commercial facility. Reducing the number of hours the A/C remains on in each building can pay huge dividends in cost savings. A lot of times the A/C is not even required as the building are air conditioned while there are no occupants in the building (after duty hours and on weekends).

See ENERGY, A4

# 'Open Skies' partners land at Hickam



Photo by Mark Bates

Col. Dean Wolford (center), 15th Airlift Wing vice commander, greets members of a Russian Air Force delegation arriving at Hickam on July 24 as part of the U.S.-Russia Open Skies program. The Russian airmen were here to meet with their American counterparts to ensure continued cooperation in the program, which establishes unarmed aerial surveillance flights designed to "enhance mutual understanding and confidence by giving all participants ... a direct role in gathering information about military forces and activities of concern to them."

## ACTION LINE

### Hazardous material disposal

**Comment:** I moved out of my base house and had several half-empty containers of hazardous materials that I wanted to take care of properly. The Hickam housing office referred me to the 15th Civil Engineer Squadron who in turn, told me to call housing back.

The Hickam housing office provided me with a 67-character Web site to find the location nearest to me that will dispose of hazardous materials. I also went to Firestone and asked if they would take my motor oil and antifreeze and dispose of them for me. The man there told me to put it in the trunk of my car or maybe the auto hobby shop could use it.

I know Team Hickam would like to do everything possible to keep Oahu and the surrounding area safe and as beautiful tomorrow as it is today. I suggest Hickam open a hazardous materials disposal site. In the meantime, the Hickam housing office could find out where the nearest disposal site is and make this information readily available. This would prevent us from damaging our environment.

**Response:** Thank you for your e-mail. With the permanent change of station season upon us, this is an issue that needs re-emphasizing.

The Air Force cannot fund the cost of disposal for hazardous materials, hazardous waste or privately owned appliances from base housing.

All families — regardless if you live on or off-base — may use the City and County of Honolulu Drop-Off Convenience Centers for Refuse and Recycling to dispose of these items. The Convenience Center nearest Hickam is the Keehi Transfer Station at 606 Middle St. in Honolulu, 845-1162.

Additionally, the AAFES Firestone Station on Hickam will accept old car batteries for disposal free of charge, even if you have not purchased a new one. Finally, hazardous waste pick-up is a desired feature in our Phase II privatization.

The developer who is awarded the contract may decide to provide this service in the future. Again, thank you for your concern for our precious environment.

*The Action Line is your direct link to me so we can work as a team to make Hickam a better community. I urge you to use the normal chain of command first. If you have done this and are still not satisfied, give my commander's Action Line a call. If you would like me to get back to you, leave your name and number, state your issue, tell me who you have talked to and why you were not satisfied with their response. I'll work your issue and respond verbally or in writing. The Action Line number is 449-2996. Messages may also be sent by e-mail to 15aw.pal@hick.af.mil.*

## Diamond Tips

**Men's sideburns** — Unless men have a shaving waiver, sideburns will be neatly trimmed and tapered; be straight and of even width (not flared); end in a clean-shaven horizontal line; and not extend below the lowest part of the exterior ear opening.



Questions? Contact your First Sergeant

## Got Good News?

Why not share it? Email your story idea or press release for Hickam Kukini to:

[hickam.kukini@hickam.af.mil](mailto:hickam.kukini@hickam.af.mil)



Deadline for article submission is end of day Monday for Friday's issue. Copy must be typed, double-spaced 12-point type, 300-500 words in length, and e-mailed to [hickam.kukini@hickam.af.mil](mailto:hickam.kukini@hickam.af.mil).

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**Kukini:** Meaning swift and valued messenger, the Kukini in ancient times took news from one Hawaiian leader to another.

# The cost of freedom is eternal vigilance

By Col. Jon Sutterfield  
455th Expeditionary Maintenance Group commander

Most of us grew up in America, or as American citizens, and enjoyed the benefits of being an American to include pursuing the American Dream — life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

But we took it all for granted ... until Sept. 11, 2001 — the day our homeland and people were attacked.

This was simply the start of something bigger that Osama Bin Laden and his evil mates had planned for us. Their intent was and remains to put an end to the American Dream.

Thomas Jefferson once said, "The price of freedom is eternal vigilance." These words continue to ring true today.

We here are doing our part to maintain the eternal vigilance necessary to protect our freedom so our families, children and their descendants can have life and liberty while pursuing or achieving happiness.

So why are we here in Afghanistan and not at home defending America from within?

The simple answer is if we don't take the fight to the enemy and their accommodating associates like the Taliban on their home turf, we'll end up fighting them in the parking lot of our local Wal-Mart. No Americans I know, whether for or against the war, want to fight the enemy in America.

The more complex answer is we are not only making Afghanistan safe for democracy, but providing the initial security to ensure democracy survives while



taking the fight to the Taliban, Al Qaeda and other insurgents.

If we can bring political stability and ensure the rule of law and respect for human rights here until the state is able to perform those matters itself, we won't have to worry about Afghanistan supporting terrorists training here to wreak havoc in America and the rest of the free world.

Ronald Reagan restated Thomas Jefferson's idea into slightly different words toward the end of the Cold War by saying, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the

United States where men were free."

Freedom isn't free ... and the cost of maintaining it is eternal vigilance. As members of the U.S. military stationed in Afghanistan, we execute our combat skills, honed over the years at our home units, here in support of the War on Terrorism protecting the American Dream.

We are doing our part to ensure America is eternally vigilant. Have no doubt the sacrifice and service each of us is contributing makes a positive difference toward achieving the goals of Operation Enduring Freedom and ultimately protects America and preserves the American Dream for future generations.

We are the protectors of the American Dream.

# Little things can have a big impact

By Lt. Col. Andy Brunetto  
386th Expeditionary Maintenance Squadron commander

Despite what I'd like to imagine, I am getting older. With that sobering reality comes the fact that I see more and more of what makes a positive difference when dealing with other people.

Throughout my experiences, particularly when I am on the receiving end, I've noticed it all comes down to the little things. The details in your interaction with the people around you and the way you treat the folks around you have an impact far beyond the moment.

For example, I've been doing a lot of work on my house for the past few years. When I try to get a contractor to handle part of the renovation for me, I notice distinct traits that cause me to lean toward one or another. Little things like returning phone calls quickly or showing up for the estimate on time (or at all) are indicators of the professionalism and care they will take when performing the job.

Listening is a huge part of treating people right. When people are talking to you, the little things like looking them in the eye, stopping what you are doing and not interrupting will mark you as a caring, reliable and trustworthy individual.

The people who do not look up from their work or tend to answer the phone in the middle of a conversation are saying they feel too busy or self-important to deal with you. This is a very unkind, non-verbal cut that says more than you know.

If you honestly are too busy to work with someone, take the time to listen briefly, look at them straight on and set up a concrete time in the near future for them to talk to you.

Other little things that make big differences include asking, "How are you?" (and meaning it) and saying, "Thank you," "You're welcome," "Nice to see you" and "Glad you could make it." These phrases are small touches that personalize your interactions.

Non-verbal little things could include

holding the door, helping pick up stuff that someone dropped, shaking hands or a smile. And what might the measure of your action be? If you were on the receiving end of the action you are about to take, how would it make you feel?

Just about all of this is obvious. The old axiom "you catch more flies with honey than with vinegar" comes to mind. However, many of us tend to let deadlines and rushing around usurp what we learned in kindergarten. This is an area that most people can stand to improve upon.

Take a look at yourself and examine where you may be able to make the little changes. These things cost you nothing, yet have great currency in how they make other people feel. In return, you will see your stature in others' eyes grow.

With all the negative news in the media, all the rush-and-hurry of life, we could all stand to slow down and do a small, decent "little thing" to change our lives and positively impact others.

# Osan exercise tests PACAF Airmen



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Christopher Boltz

Airmen prepare an F-16 Fighting Falcon aircraft for an upcoming mission during a base-wide exercise July 21 at Osan Air Base, South Korea. The operational readiness exercise tests Osan AB Airmen's ability to execute combat operations, receive follow-on forces and defend the base from attack.

# Air Force marks 60 years of integration

WASHINGTON (AFP) — In ceremonies and speeches throughout the week, the Air Force and its sister services observed the 60th anniversary since racial integration was mandated in the military.

On July 26, 1948, President Harry S Truman signed Executive Order 9981, which states, "It is hereby declared to be the policy of the President that there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin."

The order established the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services.

In a ceremony in the rotunda of the Capitol building here July 23, Defense Secretary Robert Gates spoke of how integration changed the military, even though it didn't take hold right away.

"[The directive] had to overcome stiff institutional resistance, as deeply entrenched attitudes were hard to change," he said. "Segregated units remained the norm and integrated units the exception."

The start of the Korean War in June 1950 prompted the need to put hundreds of thousands of Americans into uniform after the U.S. military had demobilized following the end of World War II.

Before the start of the Korean War, he said, 50 per-

cent of blacks in the Marine Corps — about 750 men — served as stewards. At the end of the Korean War in 1953, Gates said, there were 17,000 black Marines, and only 3 percent served as stewards.

"By 1954, the Korean War was over, the last of the segregated units were dissolved and the momentum for equality and civil rights was carrying over into American society as a whole," he said.

In the ensuing decades after Truman's directive took effect, "black and white Americans trained, served and fought together with honor and distinction," Secretary Gates said.

Today's integrated U.S. military continues to "put merit and integrity above all," he said, noting there's still more to achieve.

"My hope and expectation is that, in the years ahead, more African-Americans will staff the armed forces at the highest levels," he said. "We must make sure the American military continues to be a great engine of progress and equality — all the better to defend

our people and our values against adversaries around the globe."

Following the ceremony, acting Secretary of the Air Force Michael B. Donley said President Truman knew that signing the executive order ending segregation in the military "was the right thing to do."

"He demonstrated personal courage, standing against pressure to continue unacceptable practices," he said. "The diversity of today's armed forces reflects his wisdom and foresight."

Mr. Donley recalled the accomplishments of the all-black Tuskegee Airmen flying unit from World War II, which ended three years before President Truman's order.

"They demonstrated a deep love of country while overcoming indignities that are not tolerated in today's Air Force," he said. "America's Airmen can honor the Tuskegee and Truman legacies by ensuring that every action clearly reflects the Air Force core value of Integrity First."



U.S. Air Force photo

**In ceremonies and speeches last week, the Air Force and sister services observed the 60th anniversary since racial integration was mandated in the U.S. military.**

## Obey construction zone speed limits

**By Tech. Sgt. Paul Eversley**  
15th Security Forces Squadron NCOIC Police Services

With Onizuka Village Housing construction in full swing, the 15th Security Forces Squadron would like to reemphasize the importance of strict adherence to all posted speed limits throughout the installation, especially the posted speed changes in construction zones.

Specifically, while traveling on O'Malley Boulevard, as you approach the intersection of Apollo Avenue, the speed decreases from 35 mph down to 25 mph, and then again to 15 mph throughout the construction zone. This speed change is indicated by orange speed limit signs, posted on the roadway, throughout the construction zone. Please

note, during the hours of construction, the orange speed limit signs take precedence over white speed limit signs.

Bottom line: if you are traveling on O'Malley Boulevard, through the construction zone at a speed greater than 15 mph, you are in violation of AFI 31-204 and HRS Code 291c-104 "speeding in a school zone or construction area."

To assist with public safety, Security Force's patrols have been directed to increase Selective Laser Enforcement throughout this area and will issue citations accordingly. It is everyone's responsibility to take care of our "Hickam Ohana," so please do your part by slowing down in areas with decreased speed limits. Questions regarding this guidance should be directed to 15 SFS Police Services at 449-1006.

## Anderson Airmen take time to remember fallen aircrew



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Courtney Witt

Anderson Airmen, deployed personnel, friends and family mourn the six Airmen who died July 21 when their B-52 Stratofortress crashed. The "Raider 21" crew was scheduled to perform a flyover of Guam's Liberation Day Parade. A memorial ceremony was held here for the aircrew last Friday.

## ENERGY, From A1

Another way to reduce energy consumption in a facility is to adjust the temperature set-point up a few degrees. If every commercial facility at Hickam were to adjust the thermostat up by a single degree, estimates are that the base could save an estimated \$53,000 each year.

Raising the set-point by three degrees would produce an even more dramatic savings. If every building on base were to have its set-point changed from, say, from 73 to 76 degrees, Hickam could save a whopping \$159,000 a year in energy costs.

Here are some other energy-saving strategies Team Hickam members can put to use, both in base facilities and their own homes:

- Instead of using a screen-saver, program your computer to go into "sleep" mode when not in use. And be sure to turn off televisions, computers, stereos and the like when not in use.

- Compact fluorescent light bulbs use only about a third as much electricity as standard incandescents. And though the bulbs are slightly more expensive to buy, a compact-fluores-

cent will easily pay for itself by lasting up to ten times longer than regular bulbs. According to some experts, if you substitute compact fluorescent bulbs for a quarter of the incandescents used in high-use areas, you can cut the amount of electricity you use on lighting by half.

- As long as you're dealing with your water heater, you might as well add some insulation. Since the standard water heater is on all the time, adding extra insulation will save more energy than you think. Most hardware stores sell pre-made insulator "jackets" that can be easily wrapped around one's water heater. Experts estimate that adding insulation to your water heater and any exposed pipes can knock up to 15 percent off the costs of heating water.

- In the cooling season, set your thermostat at 78 degrees or higher when you're at home. Savings: 10-20 percent of cooling costs.

- When you're away from home during the cooling season, set your air conditioner at 85 degrees. Savings: 5-12 per-

cent of cooling costs.

- Provide shading for your air conditioning condenser. Savings: 2-3 percent of cooling costs.

- Use exterior shading devices or deciduous plants to shade your home and windows from the sun. Savings: Up to 8 percent of cooling costs

- Select the most energy-efficient model when buying a new ENERGY STAR® refrigerator, washer, or other appliance. Savings: 5-25 percent of operating costs.

- Washer: Use cold water when possible. Wash full loads.

- Dryer: Line-dry clothes (especially towels) whenever you can. When you use your dryer, dry full loads.

- Refrigerator/freezer: Open doors only when necessary and keep the coils (on the back or bottom of the appliance) clean.

- Don't preheat your oven, and use the smaller of the two ovens if you have a dual unit. Cook complete meals of several dishes simultaneously in the oven.

- Cook on rangetop burners when practical instead of in the oven.

## Crime Scene

### Theft of personal/ government property

A military family-member spouse of an active-duty O-2 assigned to 15 CPTS reported theft of personal property on 14th Street. The case is currently under investigation.

### Theft of personal/ government property

An active-duty E-8 assigned to 735 AMS report-

ed theft of personal property on Okika Place. The case is currently under investigation.

### Shoplifting

Army Air Force Exchange Service store detectives observed a military family-member child of a Marine attempting to remove merchandise totaling \$19.98 without rendering payment. The individual will have his/her AAFES privileges revoked for one year and is awaiting a juvenile hearing.

### Shoplifting

Army Air Force Exchange Service store detectives

observed an active-duty Soldier was observed attempting to remove merchandise totaling \$36 without rendering payment. The individual will have his/her AAFES privileges revoked for one year and is awaiting commander's action.

### Speeding

An active-duty Hickam Airman was cited for driving 14 mph over the speed limit.

### Citation total for the week

8 civilian traffic citations  
11 moving traffic citations  
9 non-moving traffic citations.



## LAOS, From A1

of their country and build capacity in Laos.”

During the two-week SMEE, the four-person IHS team conducted train-the-trainer courses for 20 Laotian students, and then evaluated them

in teaching the newly learned techniques to other Laotian medical personnel during the second week of the SMEE, according to Master Sgt. Tracy Lewis, PACAF IHS.

The PACAF-led SMEE

supports U.S. Pacific Command's capacity-building efforts with the goal to empower the Laotian medical corps with skills and resources, so they may be self-sustainable.

## Bold Quest Plus wraps up in Florida

**EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. (AFP)** — Bold Quest Plus, which included units from the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps, and coalition partners from Canada and the United Kingdom, wrapped up this week, highlighting innovative ways to enhance future U.S. and coalition warfighting capabilities.

The two-week U.S. Joint Forces Command-sponsored event held at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, brought together more than 600 individuals.

Bold Quest Plus used previous work conducted during Bold Quest at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, and Ft. Irwin, Calif. last year for the demonstration of coalition combat identification technologies.

“The purpose of this demonstration was to help provide warfighters with CID technologies that will maximize their combat effectiveness on today’s asymmetric battlefield,” said John Miller, the USJFCOM’s Bold Quest Plus operational manager. “We’re trying to give our coalition team the tools that will allow them to sort through

the dust and fog of war to be faster and more accurate in a gunfight.”

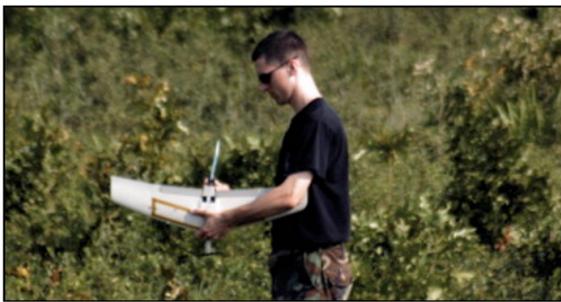
## Air Force officials ponder applications of ‘jamming’ model

**ARLINGTON, Va. (AFP)** — Granular fluids, like salt or sand, and viscous liquids, like toothpaste or wood glue, can behave like liquids or solids depending on certain conditions. When these materials stop flowing, scientists refer to the transition as “jamming.”

With funding from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, Dr. Pirouz Kavehpour and his team of researchers at the UCLA Henry Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Science have developed a special system called a Tribo-rheometer for testing their new theoretical model to predict jamming behaviors in fragile materials.

Air Force officials are interested in the benefits this model will have on new materials that enhance Department of Defense systems. These materials could range from a new family of lubricants for extreme environment application to a

## Exercise boosts combat ID capability



U.S. Air Force photo by Casey Bain

### A Battlefield Airman Targeting Micro Air Vehicle is recovered July 25 after it successfully lands during Exercise Bold Quest Plus at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla.

new generation of impact-resistant shields.

Fragile materials share common jamming behaviors, but until now, researchers have been unable to establish a common mechanism among the different types. By using a thermodynamic approach, researchers can now predict jamming behavior of numerous materials using a single model.

The team began by focusing on the behavior of dry sand. Doctor Kavehpour and his team used an existing model, but introduced a non-thermal temperature that measures the

fluffiness of the granular material. The temperature variable also made sense when studying viscous liquids, which when cooled become resistant to flow.

Doctor Kavehpour’s team plans to use the model for a variety of actual applications in the commercial and defense industries. Currently the team is working with the Air Force Research Laboratory to study

the behavior of a new family of durable, strong materials with potential applications of interest to the Air Force.

## Alternative energy project picks up steam at Robins AFB

**ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. (AFP)** — The Defense Logistics Agency kicked off its fuel cell forklift pilot project here last week at the Defense Depot Warner Robins. It is part of an effort to find alternative energy sources and reduce America’s growing dependence on energy imports.

The DDWG, in collaboration with the DLA Research and Development Program, held the kickoff to introduce the second in a series of pilot projects to demonstrate the use of hydrogen fuel cells in forklifts that move vital supplies daily in support of the warfighter.

Concurrent Technologies Corp. is the lead contractor for

the two-year demonstration program to retrofit 20 forklifts with hydrogen fuel cells. The hydrogen-to-power forklifts will be reformed on site from natural gas. A mobile refueling station will refuel the forklifts for daily warehouse operations.

Concurrent Technologies Corp., will team with Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. and Hydrogenics to complete the retrofit process, which will replace traditional batteries.

According to Dan Markiewicz, Concurrent Technologies Corp. director of advanced energy programs, one immediate operational benefit will be the elimination of the need to recharge batteries.

Previously, the recharging process meant removing a battery, putting it into a charging station to let it charge, then cooling off after the charge period, and then replacing at the end of the charging period. That process will be replaced with a much shorter process done by the mobile refueler.